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ABSTRACT

This syllabus is an outline of a one semester course in Imperial Russia designed to emphasize the relationship between Russia's past and her present. Course content begins with the founding of the first Russian state and continues to the fall of the Romanovs in 1917. In addition, some topics are suggested for investigation of Russian history in relation to geographic factors. Major periods are: 1) Origins of Russia--Kievan Rus (862-1243); 2) Mongol Invasions (1240-1480); 3) The Rise of the Princes of Moscow; 4) Reign of Ivan IV (The Terrible); 5) The Time of Troubles; and, 6) The Romanovs. Significant events and leaders are discussed in each period. Also suggested for study are four topics of an interdisciplinary nature: 1) Religious Art and Architecture; 2) Literature, especially the 19th Century Protest Literature of Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky, Turgenev, Gogol, and Gorky; 3) Marxism and the Revolutionary Tradition in Russia; and, 4) The Cossacks and Russian Folk Music. Two basic texts are: AN INTRODUCTION TO RUSSIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE by Ivar Spector, and EVOLUTION OF RUSSIA by Otto Hoetzsch. Basic historical understandings to be developed are stated and objectives are defined. A list of supplementary texts, as well as audio visual materials, is included. SO 001 196 describes a related Soviet Russian History course. (Author/JSB)

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CHINESE-RUSSIAN STUDY CENTER
Toledo Public Schools
Toledo, Ohio

SP 001 197

Syllabus for use in Imperial Russian History
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INTRODUCTION

So much has been written of the power and influence of the Soviet Union in the world today and the implications which this has for the United States that it is particularly important to understand the historical development of the Russian people and to recognize and distinguish those qualities which are common to all mankind, those which are particularly "Russian" in nature, and those which are "Communist." Therefore, this one semester course in Imperial Russian history is designed to emphasize the relationship between Russia's past and her present and to parallel the evolution of Russian society with that of the United States. The course begins with the founding of the first Russian state and continues to the fall of the Romanovs in 1917. It is hoped that by studying this period in Russian history, the student will have a better understanding of a country which takes up one sixth of the earth's surface and have a better perspective in dealing with conditions which exist in the world today.

OBJECTIVES

The basic historical objectives of this course of study are:

1. To understand the idea of multiple causation in history.
2. To understand the geographical factors which influenced Russian development.
3. To realize that in spite of the great diversity of the Russian peoples there is considerable homogenity.
4. To understand the influence of "East" and "West" in Russia's development.
5. To realize that Russian culture has been shaped by powerful personalities whose influence has been long lasting.
6. To develop an awareness of Russian attitudes and culture in the areas of religion, music, art, literature, and science.
7. To develop an understanding of the Russians as people whose background may be different, but who have many of the same hopes and aspirations as we do.
8. To develop insight into the views that the Russians have had and do have regarding the West.

METHODOLOGY

Methods and teaching techniques used in this course are designed so that students will take an active part in the learning situation and develop ability in critical thinking necessary to interpretation of historical events. Lecture and student discussion are combined with student activities and projects which are designed so that the student will "absorb" an understanding of Russian culture rather than merely learn about it. Visual aids, guest lecturers, and individual research are used to provide greater depth and individualized instruction. Activities such as the planning of Russian dinners, participation in international festivals, and learning Russian songs and dances contribute to knowledge of the subject matter. Whenever possible, original sources and the literature of the country are used to stimulate learning.

MATERIALS

TEXTS:

1. AN INTRODUCTION TO RUSSIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE by Ivar Spector; D. Van Nostrand Company
2. EVOLUTION OF RUSSIA by Otto Hoetzsch; Harcourt, Brace and World

SUPPLEMENTARY READING MATERIALS:

1. RUSSIA: SELECTED READINGS by Hyman Kublin; Houghton Mifflin Company
2. THE TSARS, 1533-1917 by Ronald Hingley; Macmillan Company
3. TREASURY OF RUSSIAN LITERATURE edited by B. G. Guerney; Vanguard Press

AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

Films - 16 mm. - sound

1. RELIGION IN RUSSIA; International Film Foundation, color, 20 min.
2. THE RUSSIAN PEASANT (Russian Agriculture); International Film Foundation, color, 20 min.
3. THE RED MYTH #1 - MARXISM AND THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO; NET Film Service, BW

Filmstrips

1. COMMUNISM: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IT AND WHY; McGraw-Hill, set of 8, color, guide
   a. Why Study Communism?
   b. What Communism is
   c. History of Communism from Marx to Lenin
   d. Communism as practiced in the U. S. S. R.
2. PETER ILICH TCHAIKOWSKY; Brunswick Productions, color, no guide
3. RIMSKY-KORSAKOFF; Brunswick Productions, color, no guide

4. GREAT RUSSIAN NOVELS; Brunswick Productions, color, no guide

   a. Fathers and Sons

   b. Crime and Punishment

   c. War and Peace

   d. The Brothers Karamozov

   e. Anna Karenina

   f. The Idiot

5. HISTORY OF RUSSIA: Common Ground Filmstrips, BW, guide

   a. The foundations to 1700 - 36 frames

   b. The age of St. Petersburg, 1700-1856 - 34 frames

   c. The end of Tsarism, 1857-1917 - 33 frames

Sound Filmstrips

1. GREAT WRITERS SERIES - DOSTOEVSKI; Filmstrip House, color, guide

   a. His life

   b. His times

   c. His works

   d. His style

Slides - 35 mm.

1. MOSCOW; Roloc, color, 85 slides

Overhead Transparencies

1. WORLD GEOGRAPHY SERIES - RUSSIA; General Aniline, set of 2

Disc Recordings

1. PLAY BALLALAIKA PLAY; Monitor

2. YULYA SINGS RUSSIA GYPSY SONGS; Monitor

3. RUSSIAN FOLK SONGS; Monitor

4. RUSSIAN ART SONGS; Monitor

5. TCHAIKOVSKY: CONCERTO NO. 1, in B-FLAT MINOR, OP. 23; RCA Victor, Moscow Radio Symphony with Van Cliburn

6. MOUSSORGSKY/RAVEL: PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION; RCA Victor, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Filmstrip & record set

7. TCHAIKOVSKY: THE NUTCRACKER and SWAN LAKE; Columbia, The Philadelphia Orchestra, Filmstrip & record set
8. TCHAIKOVSKY: SLEEPING BEAUTY and ROMEO AND JULIET; Columbia, The Philadelphia Orchestra
9. TCHAIKOVSKY: 1812 OVERTURE, OP. 49, MARCHE SLAVE, OP. 31, and CAPRICCIO ITALIEN, OP. 45; Columbia New York Philharmonic
10. THE LIGHT MUSIC OF SHOSTAKOVICH; Columbia, Andre Kostelanetz
11. BALALAIKA FAVORITES; Mercury Records

The following course outline is offered as a suggestion. The teacher can have considerable latitude in selecting those topics which he chooses to emphasize. Obviously, there is a great deal which cannot be treated in depth, so the opportunity is present to select that which is interesting and meaningful to the particular class. Accordingly, this guide will be revised in the light of classroom experience.

Much has been made of the origins of the Russian people and the strategic location of the Russian state. Located on the European and Asian continents, Russia has been called a "half-way house" between Europe and Asia. Historians do not agree on the relative influence of "East" and "West." Both have exerted considerable influence on Russia's development. This geographical location has made Russia unique as a bridge between East and West.

GEOGRAPHY

1. Russia's tremendous size
2. The vast Eurasian plain which is the largest single plain in the world
3. Lack of natural barriers inside Russia which could limit trade and communications
4. Absence of natural boundary on the West and the influence which this has had on Russia
5. Great differences in climate in Russia influence the way of life of the people. (Explore the idea that extremes in climate are responsible for extremes in the Russian character.)
6. The importance that soil and vegetation have on Russian development--lack of arable land although Russia is larger than United States and Canada. Seven natural regions of Soviet Union are: tundra, the taiga, the leafy forest, the fertile steppe, the dry steppe, the desert, and the subtropical forest.

7. Importance of Russia's rivers and ports which tend to unify the country. Many of Russia's rivers flow northward into the frozen Arctic rather than eastwest. Although Russia's coastline is large, it is far from centers of population and is not accessible to sea trade. Russia's attempts to obtain warm water ports have been an important part of her history. Hampered in her attempts to expand by sea, her expansion has been more on land.
8. Russia is wealthy in natural and mineral resources. Many of these resources are far from population centers and are difficult to obtain because of harsh climatic conditions. These handicaps have influenced Russia's industrialization--a situation that the Soviets have tried to overcome.
9. As might be expected in such a large country, Russia is a multi-national country, although Slavic peoples make up 78% of the population. This diversity in tribal groups resulted in a great variety of cultures and dialects in Russia.
10. Russia's remoteness as a border country influenced her development and contact with the West.

ORIGINS OF RUSSIA - KIEVAN RŪS (862-1243)

Little is known about the origins of the Russian people. There are chronicles or mythological takes ascribed to a Friar Nestor which tell the story of the settlement of Kiev. Probably the work of several generations, these Chronicles state that Russia began in 862 when the Slavonic tribes asked Rurik Sineus, and Truvor to come and rule. The origins of these new rulers is also unclear; however, the first of the two Russian dynasties has been called the Rurik dynasty. Two of the most important events of this period were the adoption of Christianity and the Mongol invasion.

SIGNIFICANT FACTS

1. The Dnieper River was an important link in the Kievan state. Kiev, because of its location on the Dnieper and proximity to Byzantium, became the capital and cultural center of this state.
2. The early Kievan state had elements of autocracy, nobility, and democracy. Kiev never had a strong central government, but the prince of Kiev was the most influential.
3. The Kievan state was prosperous, and trade and handicrafts flourished. Peasants could own their own land. There was an urban class who formed town councils for representation.
4. The introduction of Greek Orthodox Christianity was to have a long lasting influence on Russia and pull her toward the East.
5. The Russian alphabet was introduced during this period in order to spread Christianity.
6. Byzantine influence was present in painting, sculpture, and architecture.
7. Although Kievan Rūs was wealthy, the princes of the state began to quarrel among themselves and also to seek new lands.
8. Kievan Rūs also began to suffer from nomad invasions which ruined trade.

9. The First Crusade also affected Kievan trade, and the Kievan population migrated north.
10. The Mongols from the East conquered the Kievan state in the 13th century.

MONGOL INVASIONS (1240-1480)

The effects of the Mongol invasions of Russia are still present in Russia today. Kievan Rūs had been divided into three segments--Central, northern, and Southeast. Russia was under the control of the Golden Horde, while the Dnieper area came under the control of the Polish-Lithuanians. Novgorod in the northwest retained her independence and became a trading center with Europe.

SIGNIFICANT FACTS

1. The Mongol invasions had tremendous effects on the physical and mental characteristics of the Russians.
2. Oriental customs left their mark even on the Christian religion in Russia.
3. The Mongol rule brought about a division among the peoples of Russia.
4. The town councils of the Kievan state lost their power.
5. Many skills and crafts were lost during this period.
6. Russia became more agricultural, and the power of landlords increased. There was no middle class, and the influence of city populations lessened.
7. Although they were initially destructive, the Mongols later taxed the Russians heavily, but did not destroy the country.

THE RISE OF THE PRINCES OF MOSCOW

Russia during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries was oppressed by both the Lithuanians and the Mongols. The Princes of Moscow, because of their position as tax collectors for the Mongols and their longevity, freed Russia from the foreign yoke.

SIGNIFICANT FACTS

1. The first attempt to defeat the Mongols was the Battle of Kulikovo Meadow by Dmitri Donskoi. It was a psychological victory for the Russians.
2. Vasily, son of Dmitri, succeeded in defeating the Lithuanians in 1399.
3. Ivan III (the Great) finally removed the Tartar domination of Russia in 1480.
4. Ivan III's success brought about the rise of the city of Moscow.
5. Ivan III regarded himself as the successor to the Byzantine Emperors and began to call himself "Tzar."
6. Ivan III began contact with the West, but the unification of Orthodox and Roman Catholic faiths did not take place.
7. Ivan III brought skilled craftsmen and artisans to Moscow to rebuild Russian buildings which had been destroyed under the Mongols.
8. Ivan III showed an interest in developing trade with the West and was interested in the Baltic.
9. Ivan III reorganized the system of land tenure and contributed to the centralization of authority. The Church contributed to this centralization and became an instrument of the Tsar.
10. To improve communication, Ivan III built a series of post roads.
11. Russian rulers during this time began to regard themselves as absolute monarchs.

REIGN OF IVAN IV (THE TERRIBLE)

Grandson of Ivan the Great, Ivan IV, came to the throne in 1533. He was a strong, autocratic ruler who brought about great changes in the Russian state. Called the "Terrible" because of his cruelty, Ivan IV was one of the most important Muscovite princes and the subject of much psychological study.

SIGNIFICANT FACTS

1. Ivan IV felt it necessary to crush the hostile foreign forces which surrounded Russia and demanded absolute control of the population in order to do it.
2. Perhaps because of his cruel treatment at the hands of the boyars as a child, Ivan IV sought to crush the nobility.
3. Rights of peasants and church were reduced, and everyone was required to serve the state. Serfdom became characteristic of Russian society.
4. Siberia was explored and Eastward expansion began.
5. Attempts to expand Westward to the Baltic were a drain on the Russian state and were not wholly successful.
6. Lack of technology was evident in Ivan IV's campaigns in West.

THE TIME OF TROUBLES

Ivan IV had brought about great changes in the population. These and natural conditions caused hardship to the Russian people, and the period following the death of Ivan IV is therefore known as the "Time of Troubles."

SIGNIFICANT FACTS

1. Ivan's son, Feodor, was feeble-minded. A boyar, Boris Godunov, assumed regency and later became Tzar.
2. Boris Godunov made enemies among other boyars and among peasants by his harsh decrees.
3. Famines increased the suffering of the Russian people, and many revolted against the government including the Cossacks.
4. At the death of Boris Godunov, many pretenders tried to assume the throne. Foreigners, especially Swedes and Poles, saw an opportunity to control Russia.
5. Russia was seriously weakened by the efforts to drive the foreigners out of Russia.
6. The chaos resulting from the series of "False Dmitri's" and the actions of Boris Godunov caused the boyars to try to reduce the powers of the Tzar.

THE ROMANOVS

The struggle for power in Russia at the beginning of the seventeenth century brought the first of the Romanovs to power. The boyars thought that he was a weakling and would be easily controlled. Events proved otherwise.

SIGNIFICANT FACTS - MICHAEL ROMANOV

1. Michael Romanov's father, Philaret, proved to be a capable adviser and was responsible for restoring internal stability.
2. Trade was resumed with the West, and many foreigners came to Russia. Russians adopted many European customs during this time.
3. Peasants were more firmly bound to the land during the time of Michael Romanov.
4. Spirit of nationalism increased during the time of Michael.

SIGNIFICANT FACTS - TZAR ALEXEI

1. The most important event during the reign of Michael's son, Alexei, was the Schism, or the split between the Old Believers (fundamentalists) and the Reformers (modernists).
2. Nikon, Patriarch of Moscow, wanted changes and persecuted dissenters from his policies.
3. Traditionalists felt that Moscow was the "Third Rome" and wanted no changes.
4. The religious controversy brought about disagreement in social areas--also these groups later became known as the Westernizers and Slavophiles.
5. Resentment against foreigners living in Russia increased.
6. Codification of law took place restricting clergy, foreigners, and binding peasants more closely to the land.
7. Unemployment increased, class struggle intensified, and economic problems grew worse.
9. General discontent led to the Stenka Razin uprising.

9. Russia took offensive in acquiring Ukraine from Poland and Lithuania.
10. Expansion into Siberia continued.

SIGNIFICANT FACTS - TSAR FYODOR ALEXEIEVITCH

1. Fyodor was a weakling and died six years after his father. At his death a bitter feud broke out among his brothers and sister for control of the throne.

SIGNIFICANT FACTS - TSARVENA SOPHIA

1. Sophia gained control in the name of the throne in the name of her two younger brothers. Ivan was an incompetant, and Sophia feared Peter and sought to remove him.
2. Sophia signed the Treaty of Nertchinsk designating the frontier between Russia and China keeping Russia from the Amur River and limiting Russian expansion in the area until the nineteenth century.
3. Peter, with the cooperation of the Streltzy, discovered Sophia's plot to remove him and had her sent to a convent.

SIGNIFICANT FACTS - PETER I (THE GREAT)

1. Peter I was a very intelligent man who had a strong inclination towards the military.
2. Peter I was very much influenced by the German Suburb and the Western ideas he learned there.
3. Peter realized the changes that the Mongol invasions had brought in Russia and sought to remove them forcefully.
4. Peter wanted to make Russia a European rather than an Asian nation.
5. Many of Peter's reforms took placo at the expense of the Orthodox Church.
6. Peter sought to limit the influence of the boyars.
7. He instituted a "table of ranks" in which he created a new aristocracy.
8. Peter wanted to develop Russian industry.
9. Factory-serfdom was initiated because there was no middle class for industrialization.

10. Peter instituted programs to develop educational and scientific advancement.
11. Peter built a capital on the Baltic.
12. Russia developed as a military power during the lifetime of Peter the Great.
13. Russia suffered reverses in the South in a battle against Turkey.

SIGNIFICANT FACTS - PETER'S SUCCESSORS

1. Peter I died without naming an heir. He had killed his son, Alexei, and another son died while very young.
2. Peter's second wife, Catherine I, succeeded him. This had not been done before in Russia, aroused opposition.
3. Peter I's grandson, Peter II, gained the throne at the age of twelve and lived for only three years. He moved the court back to Moscow and gave more power to the Church.
4. Anna of Courland, daughter of Ivan, Peter I's brother, came to power upon Peter II's death. German advisers were very influential during this period.
5. Elizabeth, daughter of Peter the Great, became Empress at Anna's death. She removed the "German yoke" and substituted French influence.
6. Russia during the reign of Elizabeth I became influenced by the "Age of Enlightenment." The University of Moscow was founded and many scholars gained international acclaim including Lomonosov, the famous physicist, artist, and poet.
7. Agricultural, industrial, and economic reforms took place during Elizabeth's reign.
8. Russia gained much territory during the reign of Elizabeth, but lost it under her successor, Peter III.
9. Peter III restored German influence.
10. Peter III freed the nobles from compulsory service to the state.

11. Peter III's behavior made him unpopular with his subjects and aroused sympathy for his wife.

12. Peter III was forced to abdicate by his wife who became Catherine II.

SIGNIFICANT FACTS - THE REIGN OF CATHERINE THE GREAT

1. Catherine the Great considered herself a product of the enlightenment--she is considered one of the enlightened despots.
2. Catherine was interested in extending the power and influence of Russia.
3. She increased the burdens on the serfs and bought the support of the nobility.
4. Pugatchev led a rebellion protesting her land and peasant policy.
5. Catherine limited the power of the Church, but maintained a policy of toleration towards religion unless she suspected political intrigue.
6. Catherine was an admirer of Voltaire and encouraged French influence in Russia.
7. Catherine was responsible for the building of many structures in the Classical style.
8. She established schools and educational academies.
9. Catherine issued her "Nakaz" or statement for political and social reform, but she did not act upon her recommendation.
10. Russia's prestige was increased as a result of Catherine's enlightened ideas and foreign affairs.
11. Her reign of thirty-four years gave Russia a period of continuity and stability.

SIGNIFICANT FACTS - PAUL I

1. Paul felt that Catherine II, his mother, had deprived him of his rightful position on the throne.
2. Paul had grown up separated from his mother and disagreed with her in many areas.
3. Many historians believed that Paul was insane; however, he brought about many changes during his five year reign.

4. Paul believed in autocracy.
5. Paul established himself as the head of the Church.
6. Paul disliked French customs and preferred those of Prussia.
7. Paul issued the "Ukaz" limiting the service of the serfs.
8. Paul's reverses in foreign policy led to his assassination.

SIGNIFICANT FACTS - ALEXANDER I

1. Alexander I was reared by his grandmother, Catherine the Great, in the principles of the Enlightenment.
2. Alexander I considered himself a republican.
3. Alexander, during the first part of his reign, was liberal in his attitude, but he later became very reactionary.
4. Russia suffered much from the invasion of Russia in 1812.
5. Alexander was regarded as the Savior of Europe for his efforts in defeating Napoleon.
6. After the Napoleonic Wars, Alexander's growing conservatism led to the formation of societies which brought about the Decembrist uprising.
7. Alexander tried and failed to develop unity in Europe, but these countries felt that Russia was growing too powerful.

SIGNIFICANT FACTS - NICHOLAS I

1. Confusion over the succession of Alexander I and the conservative and autocratic personality of Nicholas I led to the first Russian revolution--the Decembrist uprising.
2. Nicholas I followed the principles of "Autocracy, Orthodoxy, and Nationalism" to maintain control of Russia.
3. Nicholas regime was militaristic and bureaucratic.
4. Nicholas established the Third Division, a political police to be used to combat subversion.
5. Nicholas I did not act to lessen the evils of serfdom.
6. Literature flourished during the reign of Nicholas--known as the Golden Age of Russian Literature.

7. Nicholas I involved Russia in military defeat in the Crimean War.
8. Nicholas I died realizing that he had not unified Russia.

SIGNIFICANT FACTS - ALEXANDER II

1. Alexander recognized Russia's backwardness and took steps to improve industrialization.
2. He realized that Russia had to free the serfs to prevent widespread rebellion.
3. Land was given to the peasants in the form of communal property.
4. Alexander issued reforms in the government, press, judicial system, and army.
5. Alexander initiated the last great wave of Russian expansion.
6. There was much opposition to Alexander's policies.
7. The Populists plotted revolution and assassinated the Tzar.

SIGNIFICANT FACTS - ALEXANDER III

1. In spite of the assassination of Alexander II, the throne passed smoothly to Alexander III.
2. Influenced by the death of his father, Alexander III crushed any revolutionary groups and tried to reverse the policies of his father.
3. Industry was developing on a large scale, and many peasants began to move to the cities. Russia developed a small middle class.
4. No attempt was made by the government to solve the problems of the masses of people.
5. The intelligentsia of Russia supported revolution.
6. Marxism came to Russia.
7. Franco-Russian alliance of 1891 brought about an end to Russia's isolation from Europe and paved the way for World War I.
8. Trans-Siberian Railway is begun.

SIGNIFICANT FACTS - NICHOLAS II

1. Nicholas was not equipped by temperment or training to be the autocratic ruler that he attempted to be.
2. His wife, Alexandra, was believed to have great influence upon him. As she was a foreigner, she was disliked in Russia.
3. Nicholas became involved in disasterous wars which contributed to social disorders.
4. Nicholas was very interested in the Far East and laid a foundation for peaceful economic penetration of China.
5. Russia suffered defeat in the war with Japan, 1904-05.
6. Since the closing years of Alexander II, political parties went underground or went abroad to operate.
7. There were many revolutionary parties including the Social Democrats, later split into the Bolsheviks and Mensheviks; the Social Revolutionary Party, later separated into "Right" and "Left" wings; the Constitutional Democrats or Kadets.
8. The Revolution began when Father Gapon led peasants and workers in a petition to the Tzar (1905). The guards fired on the people on the day thereafter known as Bloody Sunday.
9. The government instituted limited reforms after the disaster of the workers strike and military reverses.
10. The October Manifesto provided the forms of Western democracy after the Revolution of 1905 was crushed.
11. The Tzar would not work with the First and Second Dumas because they pushed for land reform.
12. The Third Duma accomplished some reforms although not representative of the people as a whole.
13. Rasputin was instrumental in directing the election of the Fourth Duma. This Duma paved the way for the revolution.

14. Believing their national interest at stake, the Russians became involved in another losing war, this time with Germany.

15. Although at first the way effort had the support of the people, military defeats and economic hardships led to the almost spontaneous demonstrations and riots which signified the fall of the monarchy.

SPECIAL TOPICS

1. RELIGIOUS ART AND ARCHITECTURE
2. LITERATURE: ESPECIALLY THE 19th CENTURY PROTEST LITERATURE OF TOLSTOY, DOSTOYEVSKY, TURGENEV, GOGOL, and GORKY. Because of the consorship in Russia, those who opposed the social system in Russia had to resort to literary expression as an outlet for their opinions.
3. MARXISM AND THE REVOLUTIONARY TRADITION IN RUSSIA
   - A. Peasant Discontent
   - B. The Intellectuals
   - C. Minorities
4. THE COSSACKS AND RUSSIAN FOLK MUSIC